

Homeland Security Policy Council



Interagency Coordination

The Homeland Security Policy Council coordinates **partnerships** with other agencies and organizations on issues that affect homeland security, including the Executive Office of the President, the Department of Homeland Security, federal advisory committees that include industry and trade organizations, and state, local and tribal governments.

Infrastructure Protection through Industry Partnerships

The HSPC seeks to encourage measures to protect the telecommunications network and ensure continuation of services.

- Through voluntary best practices, the **Network Reliability and Interoperability Council (NRIC)**, an FCC Federal Advisory Committee, focuses on assessing vulnerabilities in the cyber and physical networks and developing best practices that will ensure maximum protection against a wide range of threats.

The **NRIC** works to ensure the sustainability of public telecommunications networks, ensure adequate public telecommunications capacity during events or periods of exceptional stress, and facilitate the rapid restoration of telecommunications services. The FCC rechartered NRIC in January 2002, to focus on homeland security issues.

- The **Media Security and Reliability Council (MSRC)**, an FCC Federal Advisory Committee created in March 2002, focuses on developing a national strategy for securing and sustaining broadcast and multichannel video programming distribution (MVPD) facilities and services throughout the United States in the event of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other threats or attacks.

Communications Reliability

The HSPC continues to promote:

- **Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP)** - ensures that critical and necessary phone lines are given priority restoration in the event of an emergency.
- **Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS)** - provides emergency access and priority processing in the local and long distance segments of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).
- **Wireless Priority Access** - ensures commercial mobile radio service providers voluntarily offer Priority Access Service to national security and emergency preparedness personnel at the federal, state, and local levels to help meet the national security and emergency preparedness needs of the nation.

Public Safety Communications

The HSPC works within the FCC to:

- Provide spectrum to promote public safety;
- Resolve public safety interference;

- Facilitate effective deployment of Enhanced 911 (E911); and
- Promote interoperability of public safety radio systems.

Other Initiatives

The HSPC focuses on many other initiatives, including:

- **Spectrum Policy** - The HSPC and the FCC work to facilitate access to spectrum resources by removing unnecessary regulatory impediments and developing policies and procedures that adequately protect spectrum users from harmful interference.
- **Technology** - The HSPC and the FCC work to develop policies that foster implementation of new technologies which will advance homeland security goals.
- **International Policy** - The HSPC and the FCC monitor network security developments internationally; resolve cross-border and international spectrum matters; address issues involving operations in outer space; analyze foreign investment issues; and conduct outreach with telecommunications government policy makers in foreign countries.

Mission

- Assist the Commission in evaluating and strengthening measures for protecting U.S. communications infrastructure and services;
- Assist the Commission in ensuring rapid restoration of U.S. communications, infrastructure and services after disruption by a terrorist threat or attack;
- Assist the Commission in ensuring that public safety, public health, and other emergency and defense personnel have effective communications services available to them to serve the public.

Organization

The Homeland Security Policy Council is comprised of senior staff from the Commission's Bureaus and Offices.



FCC's Homeland Security Policy Council

For more information on the
Homeland Security Policy Council,
visit our Web site,
www.fcc.gov/hspc, or contact the
Federal Communications
Commission toll-free at
1-888-CALL-FCC - voice
(1-888-225-5322)
1 -888-TELL-FCC - TTY
(1-888-835-5322).

###

*This document is for consumer education
purposes only and is not intended to affect any
proceeding or cases involving this subject matter or
related issues.*

*“ With the events of
September 11th, it has
become imperative
that the communica-
tions community come
together to determine
our role in ensuring
homeland security.
We must be aggres-
sive in ensuring that
our policies maximize
the many efforts being
made to make our na-
tion safe. We will work
with industry to ensure
the reliability and se-
curity of our nation’s
communications infra-
structure.”*

Michael K. Powell
Chairman, FCC
October 23, 2001



Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554



Homeland Security Policy Council